

Good morning, Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. I am here today to express opinion about H.B. 5243 An Act Concerning Sober Houses.

My name is Diane Potvin and I have been in recovery since Valentine's Day 1987, and for the last 10 years have been working with Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR). Also, for the last 10 years I have been working part-time for Community Prevention and Addiction Services (CPAS) as the housing coordinator for their sober houses.

It is my opinion from both jobs that having sober houses which provides the continuum of care for those on the path of recovery, that 90% of the time only serves as a win-win for those given the opportunity of living in a safe, supportive living environment.

I have had people succeed in sober houses and I have had some not but without them the number would be much less and the problem would be much more complex for the State.

DMHAS does it part in funding beds for those wanting a safe place to start living and I believe would be the best resource for overseeing sober houses, along with the Housing Coalition of CT and that if the Legislature passes this legislation it would only make it much more difficult for those places to be available to the recovery community.

In conclusion I am asking that you do not adopt proposed legislation H.B. 5243 and let those in recovery or those that support recovery continue doing what they have been doing for years. Like everything, it is not perfect...nothing is but it is truly the best and human felt way of doing it.

Thank you. Diane Potvin